



News Release

BLM Colorado Rocky Mountain District
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BLM seeks public comment for recreation management planning of Penrose Commons

CAÑON CITY, Colo. – The Bureau of Land Management is seeking public input on a proposal to develop a recreation and management plan for the Penrose Commons area of Fremont County, approximately 10 miles east of Cañon City.

“We have worked with area stakeholders to identify goals and objectives for recreation management in this area that will allow us to continue to provide outstanding recreational experiences and protect public land resources,” said **Royal Gorge Field Office Manager Keith Berger**. “We look forward to hearing the public’s input on the proposal.”

To ensure BLM recreational areas meet the needs of the public, while also addressing impacts from overnight use and the evolving nature of motorized recreation, the Royal Gorge Field Office of the BLM is seeking public scoping comments on the future of the 3,100-acre site.

Increased overnight use in the area has left numerous sites with fire scars, abandoned trash, exposed human waste, and loss of vegetation – a condition that reduces available forage for wildlife and permitted livestock.

The use of utility terrain vehicles, or UTVs, has increased since the last travel management plan in 2003 and requires updated consideration. In addition, a proposal has been received to consider adding single-track motorized trails to the system.

Public scoping is a process to help determine the issues and alternatives to be addressed when the BLM initiates an analysis of the proposal. Helpful input includes specific scientific references, alternatives to managing overnight use, and best management practices for motorized recreational activities.

Scoping comments should be received by Nov. 30, 2022 and must be submitted through the BLM ePlanning site at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2021825/510> or mailed to: Penrose Commons, 3028 E Main Street Cañon City, CO 81212.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or any other personal identifying information in your comments, please be advised that your entire comment, including personal

identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While individuals may request the BLM to withhold personal identifying information from public view, the BLM cannot guarantee it will be able to do so.

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The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The agency's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. Diverse activities authorized on these lands generated \$111 billion in economic output across the country in fiscal year 2019—more than any other agency in the Department of the Interior. These activities supported more than 498,000 jobs.